

REMARKS

The Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, Mr. Vishal Patel, is thanked for the courtesies extended during the course of the telephone interview conducted on December 1, 2004. During the course of this interview, a proposed claim corresponding generally to the newly presented Claim 26 was discussed. During this interview, Examiner Patel referred to Stahlecker U.S. Patent 6,095,529. The following remarks reflect and expand upon the interview discussions and also address each of the points raised in the Office Action.

The indication of allowability of the subject matter of Claims 7-9 and 13-21 is noted. By this amendment, the formal objections have been addressed and these claims should remain in allowable form. Furthermore, the newly added independent Claim 30 corresponds to original allowable Claim 7, and newly added independent Claim 34 corresponds to original allowable Claim 16.

Responsive to the rejection of Claims 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, these claims have been amended as suggested. Additionally, Claims 17, 18, 20, and 21 have been amended as suggested.

The rejection of originally presented Claims 1-6, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Strub U.S. Patent 3,756,673, is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. First, with respect to Claims 1-6, Claim 1 has been canceled and replaced by new independent Claim 26. This Claim 26 clearly recites the specific rotor spinning assembly environment for the sealing arrangement, features clearly neither disclosed nor suggested by the Strub '673 Patent stuffing box arrangement.

With respect to Claims 22-25, Claim 22 positively recites the spinning rotor assembly arrangement and disposes the first and second annular radial sealing gaps with respect to this structure, structure such as the ring collar connecting the rotor cup and rotor shaft beam being neither disclosed nor suggested in Strub '673.

During the course of the interview when a new claim corresponding generally to new Claim 26 was discussed, the Stahlecker '529 Patent was mentioned as it does disclose the basic overall structural arrangement of a spinning rotor assembly with a rotor cup, collar shaft, and housing. As mentioned during the interview, the sealing disk 13 is a floating element that only includes one annular or radial sealing gap between the shaft 3 and the bore hole 14 of the disk 13. With respect to the plastic tube 25 in Stahlecker '529, the same is not, and cannot operate as, a floating sealing element because it is secured by a means of a metal locking ring to the rotor housing 5 (Column 3, lines 8-12). Accordingly, it is submitted that Stahlecker '529 neither discloses nor teaches to one skilled in the art, the combinations as now claimed in the independent Claims 26 and 22.

In view of the interview discussions and foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action on all of the claims is submitted as in order and respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No.: 010971.52513US).

Respectfully submitted,

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